

DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN

Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA

Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1-2

Sustainable Development Working Group Meeting • Chena Hot Springs/Fairbanks, Alaska • www.sdwg.org

October 12-14

First Alaskans Elder and Youth Conference • Anchorage, Alaska • www.firstalaskans.org

October 15-17

Alaska Federation of Natives • Anchorage, Alaska • www.nativefederation.org

October 20-22

Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska • www.arctic-council.org

October 27-30

Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management • Anchorage, Alaska • www.atcemak.com

November 7 Inuit Day!

November 12-13

ICC-Alaska Board of Directors Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org

December 1-3

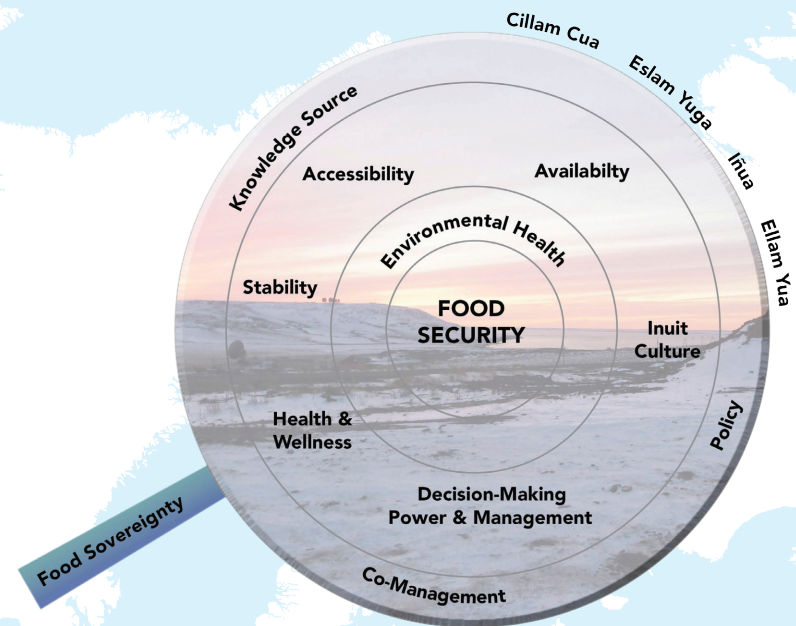
Arctic Council's Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group Meeting • Reykjavik, Iceland • www.arctic-council.org/eppr

December 1-4

BIA Tribal Providers Annual Conference • Anchorage, Alaska • www.biaprovidersconference.com

December 2-3

Indigenous Peoples' Council for Marine Mammals Meeting • Anchorage, Alaska • www.ipcommalaska.org



Alaskan Inuit Food Security Project Completed

By ICC Alaska Staff

We are excited to announce, after three and a half years of work, the Inuit led project, "Alaskan Inuit Food Security Conceptual Framework: How to assess the Arctic from an Inuit Perspective" is now complete. Below is the Executive Summary which, in addition to a Summary Report and the Full Technical Report, will soon be available on our website: www.icclaska.org.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Drastic changes are occurring within our world. We are on the forefront of these changes. We have lived here for millennia and have grown and changed with all that is around us. All that is around us physically and spiritually nourishes us, and our culture reflects the Arctic because we are part of this ecosystem.

With these rapid changes comes the need for holistic information based on Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and science. With this understanding, we brought our concerns regarding the impact of Arctic changes on our food security to forums throughout the Arctic. Through these conversations, it quickly became evident that we were referring to something different than those we were holding the discussions with.

We have often heard people within academia, policy, and management speak to us of nutritional value, calories and money needed to purchase food. All of this is important, but not what we are talking about when we say food security. We are speaking about the entire Arctic ecosystem and the relationships between all components within; we are talking about how our language teaches us when, where and how to obtain, process, store and consume food; we are talking about the importance of dancing and potlucks to share foods and how our economic system is tied to this; we are talking about our rights to govern how we obtain, process, store and consume food; about our IK and how it will aid in illuminating these changes that are occurring. We are talking about what food security means to us, to our people, to our environment and how we see this environment; we are talking about our culture. From the

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ICC ALASKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President's Message

Jim Stotts

The GLACIER Conference...

Early in the process of rolling out its Arctic Council chairmanship the USA had listed a project titled "Arctic Heads of State Summit." I remember thinking at the time that this was quite ambitious. The recent GLACIER Conference came close to fulfilling this ambition. There were twenty-one Minister/Ambassador level attendees, and one Head of State, President Barack Obama.

The one-day gathering was billed as a high-level climate change conference, a conference that was supposed to generate support for a real deal at COP 21 later this year in Paris, France. I don't think the GLACIER Conference hurt this goal and most likely helped. Delegates from Arctic states, observing states, and 19 EU countries made commitments to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to alleviate the effects of climate change in the Arctic. Well done.

It was stressed that this was not an Arctic Council event. This allowed the USA to get around the more restrictive protocols used at Arctic Council meetings with regard to indigenous permanent participants and observers. This allowed the USA to set the conference agenda as they wanted to and to invite those they wanted to. I believe this went a long way to ensuring the success of the conference. The sessions were somewhat orchestrated, but this is often how it goes with these types of conferences. They had a plan and they stuck to it. They pulled it off.

Inuit and other Arctic indigenous peoples were visible as participants. Reggie Joule (Inupiaq), Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough, gave an opening speech and Evon Peter (Gwich'in), Vice Chancellor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, gave keynote remarks during lunch.

Indigenous peoples participated on many of the panels during the sessions. There were a good mix of people with indigenous, scientists, conservationists, politicians, and policy makers all mingling together; people from Asia, North America and Europe, including Russia. It's quite amazing how the President can draw a crowd.

There were three different sessions going on simultaneously during the conference. One was for Foreign Ministers and their official delegations only which was concerned solely with climate change issues. The other two, Track A and Track B, covered a broad range of topics important to Alaska including: international cooperation for search and rescue, fisheries in the Arctic Ocean high-seas area, innovative housing technologies, and strengthening observation networks, among others. ICC participated on two panels.

The first on the topic of "Preventing Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean", where ICC explained its support for this initiative and how ICC had participated as members of the national delegations from the USA, Canada and Denmark.

The second on the topic of "Strengthening Observation Networks", where ICC presented on the value of community-based monitoring and using indigenous knowledge (IK) to gain an Inuit perspective and improve the quality of observations and research.

Then at the end of the conference, the President gave a major policy speech on global climate change. It was evident from the crowd's reaction that he was warmly received and supported. He told the delegates from both Arctic and non-Arctic states that, "none of the countries in this room are moving fast enough," The crowd cheered him on. In my opinion, GLACIER was an unqualified success.

For more on the conference please check out www.GLACIER@state.gov.

ICC Executive Council Meets in Bethel

By ICC Alaska Staff

After a long absence ICC held an Executive Council Meeting (ECM) in Bethel August 18-19. The last time an ECM was held there was in the spring of 1982, 33 years ago. Since then Bethel has grown to become the largest Inuit community in Alaska with a population approaching 7,000.

All four countries were represented with Elena Kaminskaya attending her first meeting since joining the Council in Inuvik. Unable to fly the short distance between Chukotka and Alaska, Elena had to literally fly around the world to attend the meeting. Despite having visa-free travel for Inuit in the Beringia region, it remains hard to travel between Russia and the USA.

After dispensing with the minutes and country reports, the Council reviewed and adopted the Chair's proposed strategic plan, which is outlined in the Chair's Message in this issue of DRUM. Funding for the strategic plan will require further action.

This was followed by discussions on ICC's efforts at the United Nations on: indigenous rights, the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21) to be held in Paris. ICC will send a small delegation led by the ICC Chair to the COP 21 next November. Also discussed under UN topics were: the Stockholm Convention (POP's), the Convention on Biodiversity, and the Mercury Convention.

Recent developments at the European Union (EU) were presented: implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), and the ban on import of seal products. In particular the seal ban stills remains a problem for Inuit.

The ECM discussed its work at the Arctic Council (AC). Under this topic the Council talked about recent AC meetings including working groups (WG). ICC regularly attends all WG meetings except for the Arctic Contamination and Pollution (ACAP) WG. The ECM also talked about the AC Indigenous



ICC Executive Council Members Vera Metcalf (Alaska) and Elena Kaminskaya (Chukotka). Photo by Leonid Kokourav.

Peoples Secretariat (IPS) plans to relocate to Tromsø, Norway from Copenhagen, Denmark. Hjalmar Dahl, ICC Greenland President, is the ICC representative to the IPS.

Under other business the EC discussed the upcoming GLACIER Conference, which is covered elsewhere in this issue of DRUM. Kupik Kleist presented on the status of the North Water Polynya project, which is a polynya (area of year-round open water surrounded by sea ice) that lies between Greenland and Canada in Northern Baffin Bay. Finally, there was discussion on an International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting on aboriginal whaling to be held in Maniitsoq, Greenland September 14-18.

The highpoint of being in Bethel was the great hospitality during our stay. We enjoyed a community tour upon our arrival, visiting Meyers Farm where we found high quality locally grown organic vegetables and produce. Goods from

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Okalik Egeesiak, ICC Chair talking with students at the Oscarville School. Photo by Carolina Behe.

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the farm are sold mostly within the region at competitive prices and the farm is profitable.

We visited Yuut Yaqungviat, LLC managed by the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) where students are trained to be pilots and aircraft mechanics. The aim is to have these jobs held by locals to ensure low turnover and reduce costs. Yuut Yaqungviat, LLC is also open to students from outside the region.

One evening we enjoyed a tour of the Yupiit Piciryarait Museum where we discovered a fantastic exhibition of Yup'ik art and artifacts. A potluck feast of traditional local delicacies with a youth group performing Yup'ik dances followed the tour. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the wonderful food!



ICC Executive Council members and staff joined the Bethel High School Yup'ik dancers in an invitational dance at the reception held at the Yupiit Piciryarait Museum. Photo by Mike McIntyre




Group photo at the Yuut Yaqungviat flight school. Photo by Kelly Eningowuk.



ICC Executive Council Members. L to R: Herb Nakimayak, Member (Canada), Jim Stotts, Vice Chair (Alaska), Elena Kaminskaya, Member (Chukotka), Hjalmer Dahl, Vice Chair (Greenland), Okalik Eegeesiak, Chair (Canada), Martha Abelsen, Member (Greenland), Vera Metcalf, Member (Alaska), and Duane Smith, Vice Chair (Canada). Photo by Minnie Naylor.

On the last day in Bethel we traveled to Oscarville about 20 minutes by boat on the Kuskokwim River. Oscarville is the site of a pilot project titled "Oscarville, Alaska: A Holistic Approach to Sustainable Northern Communities". The project is a collaboration of many different government agencies and looks at community sustainability holistically. It will be interesting to watch this project move forward since it uses indigenous knowledge as a guiding principle.

After returning to Anchorage, Chair Okalik Eegeesiak accompanied by Jim Stotts, visited the offices of the four ICC Alaska regional corporations and the offices of the Alaska Federation of Natives. This was the Chair's first visit to Alaska. The next ECM is planned for Canada in early 2016. 



ICC Executive Council meeting at the Allanivik Hotel. Thank you to the Association of Village Council Presidents and Allanivik Hotel for providing the meeting space. Photo by Mike McIntyre.



ICC Executive Council members chatting with Jeff Hoffman with the Yuut Yaqungviat flight school. Photo by Kelly Eningowuk.



Elena Kaminskaya, ICC Executive Council Member (Chukotka) looking at books written in Yup'ik language at the Oscarville school. Photo by Leonid Kokourav.



Chair's Message

J. Okalik Egeesiak

Finding Our Voice and Making It Heard...

Ullukkut

Since DRUM's last publication, the Executive Council met during August in beautiful Bethel, Alaska. So much of the trip made me feel more humbled and even greater pride in our common culture,

tradition, language, and history. From the community potluck and the youth who drummed and danced there, the afternoon trip to Oscarville, to the hospitality shown by the Corporations and friends I met in Bethel and Anchorage we were welcomed with open arms. I hope this first visit was one of many more during my Chairmanship.

When the Executive Council met in Bethel they approved the Chair's Strategic Plan, which includes four priorities that I hope to significantly advance during my term and in the three years left before we meet back in Alaska in 2018. These are:

1. To work with the four offices to implement the priorities set out in the Kitigaaryuit Declaration and build upon the work Inuit have done since ICC was created 40 years ago;
2. To strengthen the role and the meaningful engagement of ICC within the Arctic Council and other international fora and advance the priorities of Inuit and advocate on behalf of Inuit globally;
3. To advance a better understanding of Inuit Mental Health and support Inuit access to mental health services; and,
4. To support the Regional Seas Initiative proposed by the USA.

I have spoken at events from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, the Arctic Indigenous Languages Assessment Symposium in Ottawa, to the 2015 North Pacific Conference in Hawaii before coming to Alaska. I am especially proud when I look at the calendar and see the depth and breadth of meetings all four offices have attended or plan to attend on behalf of Inuit.

Since the US took over the Arctic Council Chairmanship, Alaska has hosted President Obama and other leaders from all over to discuss climate change and its impacts. Congratulations! The event and the hosts have brought such an important issue back to the forefront and I look forward to contributing to the momentum in the coming months as we

also prepare for negotiations at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Paris in late November and early December.

The US Chairmanship identified three priority areas which are reflective of Inuit concerns: Improving Economic & Living Conditions for Arctic Communities; Arctic Ocean Safety, Security & Stewardship; and, Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change. Again, with the US lead and their early commitment to include indigenous peoples in addressing climate change, to hosting the world in Alaska, ICC is hopeful that this enthusiasm will support meaningful engagement with equitable resources in the circumpolar world.

Inuit are being heard! From small communities like Clyde River, Nunavut whose 850 people are demanding a voice in how they see their future and their fears of seismic testing, Inuit voices from Alaska asking hard questions about offshore oil exploration and researching the vital food security issues we all face, Greenlandic Inuit fighting in the European Parliament for their rights to hunt and expressing these human rights all over the world, in Chukotka our office is making their voice heard in Moscow - to the collective Inuit voice from our offices guiding the processes within the UN and the Arctic Council.

Mental health and well being continues to be a major priority for our present and future generations. We need state governments in circumpolar regions to remember they have a duty and responsibility to guarantee comparable access to health and social services to their Arctic Peoples. It is why we look to communities like Oscarville, Alaska, to lead our urgent cries for more holistic, sustainable, and equitable programs and services lead by communities for communities.

Inuit want the very best future for our children, we want a strong Arctic economy that provides employment for our youth, and we want a healthy environment and wildlife that will continue to nourish our minds, souls and bodies. With community leadership, regional facilitation, national investments, and international cooperation and collaboration, I hope to make a significant contribution to Inuit mental health and develop text for an ICC Declaration on Health and Wellness.

From Inuit, by Inuit, to Inuit, for Inuit, in Inuit Nunaat for the benefit of the global community.

Aingai. 

Check Out Our Website
www.iccalaska.org
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President Obama Visits Alaska

By ICC Alaska Staff



President Obama speaking in Kotzebue, Alaska. Photo provided by the Arctic Sounder.

By now the whole world knows that President Barrack Obama recently visited Alaska. As expected there was a lot of local media coverage during his three-day trip on August 26-28. The stated purpose of his trip was global climate change and building momentum to get a deal at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 in Paris, France. This article focuses on his visit as it relates to Inuit and other Alaskan indigenous peoples. For more general coverage of the President's visit please visit the Alaska Dispatch News at www.adn.com for some great local news coverage.

The day before the President arrived Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced that she had signed an order changing the official name of Mt. McKinley to Denali, its Koyukon Athabaskan name. This act has great symbolic and cultural significance for native peoples in Alaska. Loud cheers went up when it was announced at the Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic: Cooperation, Innovation, Engagement, and Resilience (GLACIER).

The day the President arrived the first meeting he had was a roundtable with Alaska Native leaders to discuss their issues. The agenda included discussions on: high costs of energy in rural communities; hunting and fishing rights; the right to an indigenous way of life; energy efficient housing. He stated he would provide \$375,000 in seed money to ensure direct management of Chinook salmon through both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions.

He went on to say that he would reinvigorate the Denali Commission to coordinate state, federal, local and other entities to address climate change impacts for Alaskan communities. He said he hoped that he had been able to create a new pattern and a new relationship with First Americans that would extend beyond his presidency. The fact that the President met with indigenous leadership to get their perspectives prior to addressing the GLACIER Conference was significant.

After the roundtable, the President went to the GLACIER Conference and gave a major policy statement on global

climate change. In his statement he mentioned the need to consult with Arctic indigenous peoples, to protect their subsistence way of life, and help native communities adapt to changes brought on by climate change.


The second day the President flew to Seward where he had a chance to relax and enjoy some sunny weather. He hiked up to Exit glacier and took a boat trip in Resurrection Bay to see first hand for himself effects of climate change. He vowed to get icebreakers funded more quickly and said he would work with Congress on this. He also announced that the US Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would begin mapping and charting the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas.

The third day the President visited Dillingham on Bristol Bay where he spent three hours in cloudy rainy weather. A year ago the President declared Bristol Bay off limits to oil/gas leasing. The federal Environmental Protection Agency is in litigation to prevent a mega-mine like the Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay watershed. It's all about protecting the Bristol Bay salmon fishery and a unique way of life. The majority of indigenous people living in the Bristol Bay region are supportive of this.

The President danced a Yup'ik dance with children at the school and urged them to keep true to their traditions. He also visited a local grocery store to highlight to the press the importance of locally caught fish where food prices are often more than twice as high as prices in most parts of the country.

The President then flew to Kotzebue for the last stop on his trip; in route he had a fly-over of Kivalina, a community with extreme erosion problems brought on by climate change. The President gave a speech at the Kotzebue high school touching on the policy initiatives he had announced earlier in the day to help remote villages respond to changing climate. The package offered by the Obama administration includes more than \$20 million in new funding. It should be noted that this amount will hardly make a dent in what's actually needed, but it is a start.

Erosion and storm surges threaten coastal communities; while inland the thawing permafrost is threatening infrastructure stability. Thirty-one Alaska villages have only 10-20 years of livability before they become uninhabitable. At least twelve have decided to relocate to avoid total collapse. Moving a community to a safer location a few miles away can cost anywhere from \$80 million to more than \$250 million.

Inuit were genuinely happy and proud that President Obama would visit and talk with them about their issues including their concerns with climate change. We heard several Inuit mention that they had not washed their hands after shaking hands with the President. After a couple decades of living with the impacts of climate change it's a breath of fresh air to have a powerful ally. Time will tell if the President's visit will have a lasting impact. For now, there's hope. 

Recent Arctic Council Activities

By ICC Alaska Staff



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Working Groups:

For the first time ever four different Arctic Council (AC) working groups (WG's) met together the week of September 13 to discuss crosscutting issues and projects in Tromsø, Norway. Having the different WG's meet at the same time had been discussed for some time and finally happened.

The four WG's were: Arctic Contaminant Action Program (ACAP); Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP); Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF); Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME). Each WG held their regular meetings throughout the week.

They all came together on the morning of September 16 to discuss issues and projects that require close cooperation between them to ensure efficiency and to reduce overlap. This approach has been talked about for a while as the AC effort becomes more intensive and complex. Else-Berit Eikeland, Senior Arctic Official (SAO) from Norway and David Balton, Chair of the SAO's from the USA addressed the joint session to emphasize the need for better cooperation and collaboration between the WGs.

Carolina Behe, Indigenous Knowledge/Science Advisor attended the CAFF meeting, Eva Kruemmel, ICC Canada staff and Mads Faegteborg, ICC Greenland staff attended the AMAP meeting, and Jim Stotts, ICC Alaska President attended the PAME meeting. ICC Alaska intern Nicole Kanayurak was also able to attend the sessions.

Nicole Kanayurak, ICC Alaska Youth Representative and Marjorie Tahbone, Bering Straits Youth and Kawerak Wellness Program staff attended a Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) workshop, "Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups – Strengthens United through Networks" (RISING SUN). The workshop was held September 19-20 in Anchorage, Alaska.

The SDWG will meet in Chena Hot Springs, Alaska October 1-2. Duane Smith, Hjalmar Dahl, Jim Stotts and Jacqueline Cleveland, Cultural Sustainability Advisor will attend.

The Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR) working group will hold a workshop, "EPPR Scoping Workshop for Prevention Preparedness and Response in Small Communities." This workshop will be held October 7-9 in Anchorage, Alaska and Jacqueline Cleveland will attend. The EPPR working group will meet in Reykjavik, Iceland December 1-3.

Task Forces:

Jim attended the first meeting of the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation (TFAMC) September 21-22 in Oslo, Norway. The "mandate of the task force is to consider the future needs for strengthened cooperation on Arctic marine areas, as well as mechanisms to meet these needs, and to make recommendations on the nature and scope of any such mechanisms."

Frank Gabriel, from Tele Greenland A/S, attended the first meeting of the Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure in the Arctic (TFTIA). This task force's mandate is to "...develop a circumpolar infrastructure assessment as a first step in exploring ways to improve telecommunications in the Arctic."

For reports from these and other Arctic Council meetings please go to www.arctic-council.org.

Natan Obed Elected ITK President

By ICC Alaska Staff

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the national Inuit organization in Canada, elected Natan Obed as President during their annual meeting in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut last month.

Natan, originally from Nain, Nunatsiavut (Labrador), has been in leadership positions within the Labrador Inuit Association, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Nunavut Tunngavik, Incorporated. He has also served as Chair of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's National Inuit Committee on Health and as a member of the organization's National Committee on Inuit Education. Obed has also been involved in the Inuit Health Steering Committee, an international committee

with representatives from Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Chukotka.

Three candidates vied for the position: Terry Audla (incumbent), Jerry Komaksiutiksak and Natan Obed. Natan received 54% of the vote. He will serve a three-year term.

More information on ITK can be found online at www.itk.ca. Natan's presidential election speech can be found online at: <https://www.itk.ca/media/speech/natan-obeds-presidential-election-speech>.

realization that we need to fully share what our food security means within the Alaska Arctic, this project was born.

There has been a lot of positive work completed and ongoing to increase academic and governmental understanding of food security. The outcomes of this project come directly from us, Alaskan Inuit, to share what our food security is, how to assess changes occurring and how to move forward in a way that will strengthen our food security.

The objectives for the project were clear from the beginning – define food security, identify what the drivers (or causes) of food (in) security are, create a conceptual framework and provide an assessment process to determine Alaskan Inuit food security. What resulted is something much more. As we came together through community meetings, one-on-one and group interviews, regional workshops and numerous conversations, we realized that the drivers of our food security are all the same and that what make up food security within each of our identities, villages and regions is the same.

A Project Led by Alaskan Inuit

Over a three-and-a-half-year period, a group of IK holders, regional youth representatives and two cultural anthropologists acted as the Food Security Advisory Committee. The Committee guided ICC-Alaska through the development, implementation and analysis of information gathered. The final products of the project are the result of 146 Inuit contributing authors – a title fitting for those who provide all concepts, philosophies and recommendations that have come out of this project.

Defining Alaskan Inuit Food Security

Alaskan Inuit food security is the natural right of all Inuit to be part of the ecosystem, to access food and to care-take, protect and respect all of life, land, water and air. It allows for all Inuit to obtain, process, store and consume sufficient amounts of healthy and nutritious preferred food – foods physically and spiritually craved and needed from the land, air and water, which provide for families and future generations through the practice of Inuit customs and spirituality, languages, knowledge, policies, management practices and self-governance. It includes the responsibility and ability to pass on knowledge to younger generations, the taste of traditional foods rooted in place and season, knowledge of how to safely obtain and prepare traditional foods for medicinal use, clothing, housing, nutrients and, overall, how to be within one's environment. Understanding that food is a lifeline and a connection between the past and today's self and cultural identity. Inuit food security is characterized by environmental health and is made up of six interconnecting dimensions: Availability, Inuit Culture, Decision-Making Power and Management, Health & Wellness, Stability and Accessibility. This definition holds the understanding that without food sovereignty, food security will not exist.

From here on, this is what we are discussing when we say food security.

Summary and Technical Report

A summary report and technical report have been created from this project. The summary report was created for those who are looking for a quick glimpse at what food security means to us, what it means to apply a food security lens to assessments, and recommendations for strengthening food security. For a deeper understanding and more in-depth discussion, a technical report has been created. Within both reports you will find: 1) recommendations, 2) key barriers, 3) the food security conceptual framework, and 4) drivers of food security and insecurity.

Food Security Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework is provided thru an image of a drum and explains that food security is characterized by environmental health, which is achieved through the stability of six dimensions: 1) Availability, 2) Inuit Culture, 3) Decision-Making Power and Management, 4) Health & Wellness, 5) Stability and 6) Accessibility. Three tools support the stability of the six dimensions: policy, knowledge sources and co-management. The drum is held together by the spirit of all: (Cillam Cua, Eslam Yuga, Iñua and Ellam Yua). The drum is held up by food sovereignty – a requirement to have food security. The conceptual framework aids us in seeing the underlying issues, described as “drivers,” to explain actions, components or causes of food (in)security as they push food security in a particular direction. The six dimensions of food security are made up of 58 drivers. The technical report explains how the drivers are interlinked and categorized under specific dimensions and how the dimensions are connected.

The Interlinking of the Six Dimensions

While no one of the six dimensions of food security is more important than the other, the decision-making power and management dimension directly influences the strength of all other dimensions. We are experienced in adjusting to changes within the environment. The rapid changes occurring today require our knowledge and expertise to account for short-and long-term disturbances to the Arctic. However, we are lacking in our ability to make daily adaptive decisions due to policies, regulations and other intervening factors that contradict our knowledge and traditional management practices or favor the interest of outside cultures.

One way to strengthen Inuit decision-making power and management is to concentrate on the tools needed to maintain the integrity of the six food security dimensions. For example, there is a need for co-management practices within Alaska to include IK philosophies and methodologies in obtaining and assessing information and making decisions. This may

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Looking forward to the “RISING SUN”


By Nicole Kanayurak, ICC Alaska Youth Representative

The first “RISING SUN” workshop was kicked off in Anchorage, AK on the weekend of September 19-20, 2015. “Reducing the Incidence of Suicide in Indigenous Groups” or “RISING SUN” is an initiative by the Arctic Council that ICC co-leads. The mission of RISING SUN led by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is to find effective tools and approaches to address suicide in Arctic Indigenous communities through consensus building. The goal of the workshop was to delve into the issue of suicide from multiple angles with the involvement of a multitude of perspectives.



Breakout working group during the RISING SUN workshop with strong youth engagement. Photo provided by Nicole Kanayurak.


Attending workshops like RISING SUN, especially when one knows that lives of our own people in our communities are being taken is challenging because one reflects on what one can do to act with an understanding that this issue is not abstract. This first RISING SUN workshop allowed for deep conversation with a passionate group of people including youth who have real experience with suicide and expressed their vision for how to address suicide. This workshop was a place to bring awareness and advocate for effective wellness programs that are occurring and insights into paths that may work.

In the last month one of our own communities, during a matter of weeks experienced a very tragic loss of lives that is not only affecting the wellness of a whole community now but will impact wellness across generations. The barriers to wellness or receiving the help needed to become well in our communities are crucial to address suicide. As two young men expressed at this workshop, it is important for youth to be there for each other and the community to have safe open spaces to talk and for support. Improving health and addressing wellness for resilient communities is better if we work together. 



Meet Jackie Cleveland

Jacqueline Cleveland (Nalikutaar) has recently joined our office as the Cultural Sustainability Advisor. Jackie is Yupik and Hawaiian and has been living and working in her region and village since receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Montana State University. She majored in Media and Theatre Arts and minored Native American Studies. Since 2010 she has been working for the Native Village of Kwinhagak as the Director of Natural Resources.

Jacki will be responsible for leading our office's efforts within the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), planning for and coordinating the Inuit Wildlife Summit and coordinating the “I am Inuit project.” 

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require moving away from managing single species to paying closer attention to the relationships between given species and the rest of the environment.

Drivers of Food Security

Though there are points of vulnerability in today's Alaskan Inuit food security; there are many drivers working to maintain it. Most of these are found within the Inuit Culture dimension of food security. For example, there are numerous initiatives that focus on the use and preservation on Inuit languages; sharing systems are evolving to account for new tools need to acquire traditional foods; education programs are being developed to provide an increased focus on IK; practices of obtaining processing, storing and consuming traditional foods and holding feasts, celebrations and dances continue on.

Conclusion

As mentioned above, this project has been ongoing for three-and-a-half years. Since the beginning of the project, impacts of the many changes occurring have escalated. Where before we discussed changes that had never been seen, today these changes are persistent, and abnormal events are becoming the new norm. For example, before, some mentioned having less meat to dry, whereas today, some have no meat to dry. There is no time to waste; we must begin to make changes today, not just for the sake of our culture, but also for the sake of the entire Arctic ecosystem. We hope that the summary and technical report will be of use to a broad spectrum of people. Villages may use the reports to aid in communicating with those from outside our communities. Decision-makers, academics, environmentalist, policy-makers and industry may use the reports as a tool to enhance their understanding of the Arctic.

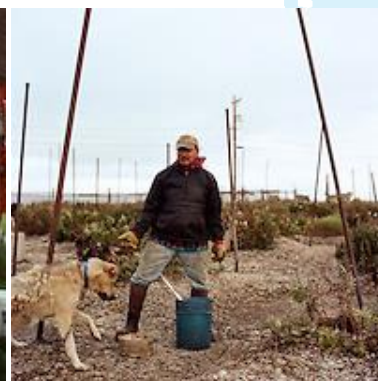
The food security reports are accessible at www.iccalaska.org. 

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I AM INUIT is an Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)-Alaska project that seeks to connect the world with Alaskan Inuit (Inupiat, Yup'ik, Cup'ik and St. Lawrence Island Yupik) and the Arctic, through common humanity.

ICC-Alaska is pleased to be working with Brian Adams, Professional Inupiat Photographer, who is traveling to Inuit communities throughout the Alaskan Arctic to capture life, culture and society through photos and short stories.



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